small and tiny rubber goods manufacturing units.

(c) Certain representations have been received requesting the Government to withdraw the Bill.

(d) For the reasons mentioned in reply to part (b) of the question, Government do not propose to withdraw the Bill.

Merger of Export Promotion Division with C.C.I. & E.

1133. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Export Promotion Division of his Ministry was merged with the C.C.I. & E. some years back;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even though promotion to Export Promotion Division officers was given in accordance with merged seniority but actual merger of this division with CCI & E has not taken place;

(c) whether there is resistance for such a merger from Export Promotion Division officers; and

(d) if so, what action is being taken by Government to ensure complete merger of this division with the CCI & E?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Following the recommendations of a High Powered Committee regarding future of Export Promotion Cadre in the Ministry of Commerce, it was decided that the grades of Joint Director and Deputy Director in the Export Promotion Cadre be encadred in the CTS (now ITS). Order to this effect, were issued in December, 1988. There has been no decision to physically transfer these posts to the Office of CCI&E.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Tariff Reforms for boosting export

1134. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up tariff reforms to boost exports; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) In the Budget for 1992-93, tariff reforms have been made with the aim of bringing down the cost of essential imported inputs and to boost production for export. The peak levy of duties was brought down from 150 per cent to 110 percent (basic plus auxiliary). In order to encourage new investment in export-oriented industries, the duty rate on project imports and general machinery was reduced from 80 per cent to 60 per cent. In the case of capital goods, including project imports for electronics industry, the import duty was reduced from 60 per cent to 50 per cent. The import duty on other capital goods previously attracting duty above 80 per cent was reduced by 10 percentage points.

Friction on the Auction Platform of Tobacco Board at Ongole

1135. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that friction had arisen among the growers, traders and officials on the auction platform of Tobacco Board at Ongole on the 18th June, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to prevent such incidents?